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Patton names Janie Miller as new commissioner of Kentucky Department of Insurance;

Miller previously served as department's deputy commissioner of health insurance



FRANKFORT, KY. - Gov. Paul E. Patton today named Janie A. Miller as commissioner of the Department of Insurance, succeeding George Nichols III as chief regulator of Kentucky's \$10 billion insurance industry.

Miller currently serves as the department's Deputy Commissioner of Health Insurance and has nearly 24 years of experience in the development and administration of health care programs, including for two major hospital systems and a Kentucky health insurer. The governor's appointment is effective Jan. 1, 2001, and is subject to Senate confirmation.

"We're fortunate to find someone who can make such a seamless transition at the Department of Insurance," Gov. Patton said. "Janie has the leadership ability and skills to keep the department moving strongly forward in its vital role for all consumers."

Secretary Ron McCloud, of the Public Protection and Regulation Cabinet, said: "I'm confident Janie will provide the same outstanding leadership as Commissioner Nichols. She brings to this job a working knowledge of health care from the perspective of consumers, the industry and providers."

In addition to health insurance, Miller said she would focus on agent licensing and market conduct.

"At least 65,000 agents in this state are the key contacts for consumers and the industry and we must continue making progress in how we process their paperwork, license and regulate them," Miller said.

"We also must continue to strengthen our market conduct programs because these exams are the key to monitoring how companies really do business with consumers," Miller said.

Miller expressed appreciation to Gov. Patton and outgoing commissioner Nichols who ends four years and eight months with the department on Dec. 31.

"With the governor's backing and support, George set the stage for this transition, preparing all of us at the department to further his vision and leadership," Miller said.

Miller was instrumental in developing Kentucky Access, a health insurance pool focused on providing more affordable insurance to Kentuckians with high-cost medical conditions who must buy their own insurance. She also oversaw the implementation of all health-related patient protections from the 1998 and 2000 legislative sessions, including external appeals rights and patient access to adequate provider networks.

Miller, 45, lives in Shelbyville with her husband Gary and two sons, Andrew, 17, and Brett, 11. She is a native of Stearns, Ky., in McCreary County.

Career highlights for Janie A. Miller

